













# For the sake of consistency

By Dan Jacobson

R. F. CHRISTIAN (Editor and translator):  
Tolstoy's Letters  
Vol 1: 1828-1873  
Vol 2: 1880-1910  
349 and 399pp. Athlone Press. £20 the set.

As a young man Tolstoy volunteered to take part, with his older brother, in a small war against rebellious tribesmen in the Caucasus. Here is an extract from a letter he wrote to his brother, widely waiting for a transfer from the town of Tiflis.

I told you I need 100 roubles to get away; now I see I shan't manage without 140. Help me as much as you can. Perhaps you think that I'm quite well now. Unfortunately I'm very unwell. La maladie venérienne est détruite, mais ce sont les suites du Mercure qui me font souffrir l'impossible. Just imagine, my mouth and tongue are completely covered in sores, which prevent me eating and sleeping. Without any exaggeration, this is the second week I've eaten nothing, and I haven't slept a single hour. All these horse doctors and surgeons I've had a good thing that there are doctors here, and God willing, I'll get better somehow.

I was going to write to you about a very interesting matter, but I'm so tired I'll go off to bed. I'll write by the next post, or if I have time, I'll add something more. It's not worth giving the white horse away for 13 roubles. Goodbye. Don't forget to forward all letters from Russia and send me as much money as you can.

And here is Tolstoy, the world-famous pacifist, vegetarian, anarchist and believer in chastity, advising his son Misha, aged sixteen, to wait at least seven years before getting married to a peasant girl with whom he had fallen in love:

In these years you should stop learning to play the accordion and to dance, and should inure yourself to every form of abstinence and hard work, and in addition, should not only not sink lower in mental and moral development, but should rise and consolidate yourself so as to raise your wife in this respect too; [and] you and she should live for these 7 years chastely, without ceasing to work on yourselves. . . .

Flourish comes as a reward only to the man who does not make it the goal of his life. When a man makes it his goal in life, the opposite always happens, he destroys life: you get debauchery, illness, onanism, or that stupefying state of being in love which you have encountered in all its inevitable consequences: the crippling of body and soul and the incapacity for any type of enjoyment. Vodka, tobacco, and other means of stupefaction such as the accordion inevitably accompany this frenzy of mind because, by befogging the reason, they hide from a man the falseness of his goal.

The contrast between the letters is plain enough. It is difficult to find the writer of either an attractive figure. On the one hand there is the dissipated, bankrupt, cadet, full of mercury and self-pity; on the other, the moralist and preacher, strenuously urging upon someone else a way of life totally opposite to his own. The tension between the young man and the old one seems immense, even unbridgeable. However, by the time one comes to the second of the letters quoted above (i.e. after reading about 550 pages of these volumes), one is struck by the consistency of Tolstoy's thought.

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unies), one is less struck by the differences between them than by the unmistakable resemblances and continuities.

Both letters are deeply self-absorbed; the second no less than the first, for only someone who had altogether forgotten what it was like to be young could ever have adopted such a tone in writing to a sixteen-year-old. Both are written by a man who appears wholly incapable of imagining himself to be other than he is at the moment of writing; there is not a trace of irony or detachment in either. Hence both letters are entirely humourless, however visible they may appear to an outsider. Both are written by someone who is convinced that he is in the right in whatever he feels and wants, and that all others are in the wrong, whether they be the "horse doctors and surgeons" harassing the subaltern, or the "accidentists and onanists" around the prophet.

Both letters, in short, seem to have been written by some kind of simpleton. In fact they come from one of the greatest imaginative writers who has ever lived. How is one to explain the paradox? Can it be explained by the fact that Tolstoy, a greater range of characters of different classes and dispositions than Tolstoy; in these letters one looks in vain for any sense of the living presence of either the people he writes about or the people to whom the letters are addressed. No one has written better than Tolstoy about the exhilaration of physical activity—riding a sleigh, kissing a girl through a window, running across a field in the midst of an artillery bombardment; nothing of this kind appears in the letters. (Indeed, in the same letter to Misha Tolstoy in which he comes down so heavily on accordion-playing, he solemnly classifies bicycle-riding as a "vice".) The evocation of intense and sustained states of happiness, always considered one of the most difficult of a novelist's tasks, is something Tolstoy achieves over and over again in his fiction; in these letters he is usually pretty miserable and disgruntled, if not actually in despair. For one reason or another, no writer, again, is better than Tolstoy in presenting both the

rapidity and stillness of the mind in the face of extreme danger or fatigue, the unpredictable and seemingly arbitrary manner in which consciousness appears to follow the body at such times; in the letters we have a perpetual seeker after all occasions. The novels are full of lyrical evocations of nature in different seasons; the letters, by and large, are bare of them.

It need hardly be said, then, that these are not letters (like those of Lawrence or Dickens, say, or Chekhov) which can be read for the pleasures they offer in themselves, as well as for what they reveal of the author's mind. There are some beautiful and affectionate passages in them, and some brief but rewarding descriptions of places or scenes (the onset of spring is celebrated on several occasions, almost as if against the writer's will); there are many shrewd, tell-tale observations about books, peasants, intellectuals and other topics; occasionally one can find it invigorating rather than irritating to see Tolstoy unflinchingly accept the logic of his own positions, irrespective of the consequences. (His well-known complaint for Shakespeare leads him to describe Macbeth as "a farcical play written by a clever artist with a good memory who has read a lot of clever books"; his pacifist compels him to ask, "What is so terrible about that? when considering the fact that he or his daughter might be killed if all criminals and madmen were let out of confinement.")

But overall the letters are devoted to one topic, one obsession, whether they are written by the gambling, womanizing youth, the middle-aged novelist and family man, or by the aged reformer of all mankind. What engrosses him is the exact state of his soul. Nothing else matters. Nothing else seems properly to exist. This is as much true before Tolstoy's spiritual crisis as it is after it. His spiritual redemption is more important to him than his digestion; but that is not to say that his digestion is unimportant. He is always looking for the final answer to his problems, and hence the abolition of all choice for himself and others.

Which brings one back to the problem of his "simplicity": a simplicity rightly recognized by admirers of his subtle, beautiful, and capacious novels as one of the greatest sources of his strength. There does seem to be a close connection between Tolstoy's compulsion to be wholly himself, even remorselessly himself, whatever that self might happen to be at different stages of his career, and the capacity of the novelist to fill the consciousness of almost all his characters with a sense of their own autonomy and significance. But how it is done, or how the connection can best be described, seems more of a mystery than ever after one has read these letters. (Not even the diaries, or the memoirs of members of the family, or any of the biographies, raise the problem in such an acute form; one expects diaries to be self-absorbed, and the memoirs and biographies are, of course, written for outsiders.) Of all the great novelists Tolstoy strikes the reader as the most lucid and accessible, the one least interested in the mystifications of "art" and "personality". This does not prevent him from also being, at the same time, one of the most impenetrable.

Yet his ultimate renunciation of his art, and his denunciation of his own greatest works, do have a logic that one can begin to perceive more clearly as one reads the letters. It is not merely, as he claimed, that the novels were about worldly matters—sex, ambition, power, social success and failure—which he had belatedly learnt to despise. Nor is it that the very intensity of his epicurean moral earnestness, which had helped to make the novels so powerful, had inevitably carried him beyond into another kind of discourse. It is rather that his novels, like all others, could exist only through contradiction and tension and the mutually supportive presence of irreconcilable impulses and forces. It was precisely to these that they owed their "harmony" and "proportion"—to invoke two critical terms which Tolstoy used repeatedly in trying to describe in different correspondents what he looked for in literary art.

Harmony and proportion arising out of confusion and disorder,

indeed depending on them for their very existence. . . . No wonder the writer of these letters finally declared art to be a lie. He had always hated moral or spiritual or psychological paradoxes of any kind, and had wanted to beat them down others whenever he came across them. But his art, inevitably, was composed of paradoxes and contradictions; and his own relationship to it was bewilderingly paradoxical at every turn and in every way. Then let it be destroyed! After all, for consistency's sake he was ready to sacrifice his own life and his daughter's; why should he be more merciful towards his novels?

In other words, what he really could not tolerate about *The Confessions* and *War and Peace*, and *Anna Karenina* was not that they had been written against him, as he had believed. It was rather that they were the work of a self, however overweening it may have been, yet yet divided at so great a depth that only the books themselves could contain and express the division.

In a letter written shortly after Dostoevsky's death he wrote, "I admitted the intensity of his self-defeating ambition to do so with all such inner divisions, by words he uses in that letter, with tragic force to himself, as they do much to explain the terms and pathetic events of the last decade of his life."

It seems to me [he writes to his friend, N. Strakhov] that have been the victim of a fate and erroneous attitude—not in your part but on everybody's part. . . . I have been too touching and interesting a character not to get on a pedestal for the edification of posterity; my life was all struggle. (My italics.) The volumes reviewed here contain the first full selection of Tolstoy's letters published in English. I am not really able to comment on R. F. Christian's achievement as translator, but the letters read fluently and fully enough. As an editor he has to have done his job admirably. Each group of letters is preceded by a succinct account of the events in Tolstoy's life during the period covered; each of Tolstoy's correspondents is introduced by a biographical note; all obscure or puzzling references within the letters are explained; and all letters are explained by a brief note at the end of the volume.

## EXPLORATION

# Bumbling about in the pack-ice

By Roland Humphord

RODERIC OWEN:  
The Fate of Franklin  
471pp. Hutchinson. £9.95.

In the history of polar exploration there lies a sad little allegory of the collapse of British power. Since the Elizabethan age, Englishmen had been seeking the North West Passage, an Arctic sea route between the Atlantic and the Pacific. In the end, a Norwegian, building on the work of an English explorer, snatched the prize. On August 30, 1896, after a voyage lasting three years, Roald Amundsen emerged from the Bering Straits to become the first man ever to sail through the legendary Passage from east to west.

Amundsen succeeded with insulting ease and small resources. He employed very much by private enterprise, on credit, with six companions in a tiny sloop of forty-seven tons called *Gjøa* and suffered approximately the discomfort of a roughish Channel crossing. The British saga is a masterpiece. It rests on lavish, over-manned, and cumbersome official enterprises. Apocryphal came with Sir John Franklin who, in 1845, sailed from England with two ships, HMS Erebus and HMS Terror. His superhuman efforts, his men discovered a North West Passage (there are in fact several) by joining previous discoveries via Victoria Strait and Dease and Simpson Straits. Unfortunately, Sir John and all his 128 companions perished in the process.

It was not unfair to set Amundsen against Franklin. Amundsen, by his own account, modelled himself on Dr John Rae, Franklin's contemporary. Rae was an apostle of the small expedition. Working for the Hudson's Bay Company, he was the most efficient and successful of British Arctic explorers of the mid-nineteenth century. He hardly lost a man, and worked with an economy of means. "Extremes of land," he added to his chart, "as here," and he added to his work, "1,135 statute miles, at the expense [sic] of about £2.15 per mile." Rae ended his days, in active Orkneys, half forgotten. It was Sir John who drew a place in Westminster Abbey and an epitaph by Tennyson.

The difference was this. Franklin was a captain in the Royal Navy, Rae was a nobody; a doctor and a man with ideas of his own. He found out how to cope with the Arctic by learning—rapidly—from the native peoples, guiding up the Eskimos. He was adaptable, and therefore had the capacity to survive.

Franklin, on the other hand, was rigid, with a blinkered vision. He was almost doomed from the start. He looked down on the native tribes, highly adapted to their environment as they were, merely as heathen. He dragged his civilization into the wilds, burdening himself with cumbersome methods. Before his disastrous enterprise, he carried out two overland Arctic journeys, overcoming by sheer willpower his own incompetence. They were heroic misadventures, but he was, in the end, a failure. He was known as "the man who ate his boots" because the complete Victorian hero.

Franklin was a nice man. His father was that of an age. He was the epitome of the post-Enlightenment British naval officer, the bumbler whose carefully planned expeditions in minor engagements at the hands of the Americans and South Americans were completely pre-empted. As most of its own admirals put it, "most of the Victorian Navy was 'muddle'."

British polar exploration was dominated by naval officers. It was in the eighteenth century, with James Cook, whose main polar work was in the Antarctic, Cook was an extraordinary man; a bit of a genius and a marvellous leader of men. In his own day, he was the most famous of naval officers (and a bit of a hero). He was a great explorer after Cook.

Franklin established the image, in Britain at least, of the polar explorer as a sacrificial hero. It is more than passing interest in Franklin is a key figure, not only in the history of exploration, but in the development of the national myth. Roderic Owen's *The Fate of Franklin* is the best major biography of the last part of a century; the last was by H. D. Traill, in 1896. A new one was long overdue.

The trouble about Franklin's fate is that much is guesswork. What we know was pieced together by the cohorts of search expeditions that went out. Franklin was last seen alive in July 1845 by whalers in Baffin Bay. The rest is circumstantial evidence, gleaned from relics, Eskimo reports and one poignant message signed by some of the British officers and buried in the Arctic.

This much is certain. Franklin and his men were monumentally unsuited to their task. They could not live off the land. Their ships were crushed in the ice of Victoria Strait off King William Land. They set off, dragging overloaded sledges to try to reach safety at the Great Fish River on the American mainland. They were killed by starvation and scurvy. This was in a region where Eskimos lived—just. And there was the crux. Survival in the Arctic required a high level of physical balance. One extra mouth, or even six, is no strain. But one hundred is a plague of locusts. From self-preservation, the Eskimos ran away from Franklin's men, so as not to have to share their stocks of food. For the same reasons, they may have killed some of them.

Until now facts are dug up—and what we know is over a century old—interpretation is all that can be new. Mr Owen is no iconoclast. He is himself a Franklin by descent. He has taken the line of questioning; of standing by the legend, as it were. He explains away grotesqueries that amazed even Franklin's contemporaries, such as heavy silver plate man-hauled by starving men after they had abandoned the line of questioning, or the fact that the men who went north would have been worth more than the Crown Jewels. He excuses Franklin's (and his followers') lack of adaptability on the grounds that no one at the time went north in the Arctic, where the men were doing just that under the aegis of the Hudson's Bay Company. But Rae was an anti-establishment figure, and it is interesting that Mr Owen has little time for him.

This is, by design evidently, a conventional book, and adds very little to the history. The authority on Franklin's last expedition—the climax of his life, and occupying a large part of Mr Owen's book—remains Richard Cyriel's eminently readable *Sir John Franklin's Last Arctic Expedition*, published almost forty years ago, and, as any case, Mr Owen has a certain

archness of style, which has its place, but not, somehow, in polar annals.

Mr Owen's service has been in fill in the details of Franklin's career—a long and varied one, which included serving under Nelson at Trafalgar, being shipwrecked off the coast of Australia, and six years as governor of Tasmania—or Van Diemen's Land as it was then called. He is at his best with family matters. Basically, *The Fate of Franklin* is a family chronicle; more precisely the portrait of a marriage. It is about Sir John's second wife, Jane, who clearly exercised a compulsive fascination on Mr Owen.

Mr Owen has had access to family archives, hitherto unopened, which enable him to give some interesting sidelights on Lady Jane; clearly a bit of a Gorgon. It is inconceivable, on Mr Owen's evidence, that she drove Franklin to his last expedition at the age of sixty for a variety of motives; she was clearly ambitious, and he might have wanted to get away from her. She would quite obviously have been mortified if her husband had turned up safe and sound. She enjoyed playing the faithful widow, just the role to catch the Victorian imagination, and became as great a public figure as her spouse. After the British government declined to send out any more search expeditions, she financed one on her own, commanded by Captain Leopold M'Clintock, RN, who discovered the main relics, and established the fate of Franklin.

Lady Jane emerges a more substantial figure than her husband; and perhaps that is a fair reflection of reality. Mr Owen provides a view of one kind of Victorian traveller's wife, which is a useful thing to have.

*The Fate of Franklin*, however, is marred by one particular sin: Mr Owen has concealed his sources. He excuses this on the grounds that they are "of concern mainly to specialists who will be familiar with such things already." This is begging the question, especially in so involved a field as polar history. Good scholarship is at a premium, and can involve a multitude of faults. In a book such as this which (effectively) makes much use of quotations, sources are mandatory not only for the specialist, but the intelligent reader as well.

All this is a great pity. Of course sources are the devil. But a list of sources need not obtrude; nor a select bibliography. Of neither is there a trace, and anyone interested in pursuing the subject will have absolutely nothing to go on.

Perhaps it is one day, the wrecks of Erebus and Terror are visited by Professor Epstein explores this concept by applying it to three ethnographic contexts: on the Copperbelt of Zambia, among the Tolai of New Guinea, and with reference to American Jewry.

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# Sledging solo

By Alfred Stephenson

LENNARD BICKEL:  
This Accursed Land  
210pp. Macmillan. £4.95.

*This Accursed Land* describes what Sir Edmund Hillary calls "the greatest story of lone survival in polar exploration"—a story that has only been fully described once before, in Sir Douglas Mawson's own official account of the Australian Antarctic Expedition of 1911-13, *The Home of the Blizzard*. *This Accursed Land* gives a general account of the successful scientific and exploratory work of the expedition, but is concerned primarily with the heroic and desperate journey of Mawson, accompanied by Lieutenant Ninnis and Dr Xavier Mertz.

The expedition was based in a part of the Antarctic where the winds, which average 50 mph throughout the year, are mostly karabatic winds pouring down two of the world's greatest glaciers. Mawson's journey took him across these glaciers, and when three hundred miles from base tragedy hit him. Ninnis was lost down a crevasse together with the box sledge

and dogs, all the dog food, most of their own food and their tent. Mawson and Mertz turned for home, living on dog meat and dog's liver (which it now appears may well have been toxic, causing the men to suffer from hypervitaminosis A). When 100 miles from base Mertz died from what was thought to be peritonitis and Mawson was left to complete the journey through heavily crevassed areas, towing his half sledge, sometimes crawling on hands and knees and frequently climbing out of crevasses with the aid of his home-made rope ladder.

The story as told by Leonard Bickel contains more details of the horrors of the journey, based on personal diaries, than Mawson himself chose to relate, and makes his superhuman efforts even more remarkable. The book is clearly and sometimes beautifully written, and the author's scientific descriptions where necessary. One of the virtues of, and possibly reasons for, retelling the story now is that it brings to the notice of the present generation the heroic and desperate journey of an explorer and man of science, placing him in the front rank of polar explorers—a position from which he was inadvertently excluded at the time by the new of the Scott tragedy and the Amundsen success.

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as a decisive factor in incorporating the industrial leaders into the ruling groups in rigidifying previously existing trends and in placing German policy under the control of agrarian and industrial alliance, making authoritarianism in domestic policy and imperialism in foreign policy an irreversible course. Decision lay with personalities and was not dependent on anonymous forces. That is why for Kehr the 1890s were the turning-point in German history.

Despite Kehr's interest in the exploration of previously neglected areas of history, there was still a strongly traditional element in his approach. He worked in a "mainstream"—as he himself called it—of German historiography. He was a political historian. And in considering the relationship between Meinecke and Kehr one ought to bear in mind that despite disagreements there was this bond between them. Most of Kehr's essays ought to be viewed not only as contributions to scholarship but also to politics. They are full of allusions to past, present and future of the German nation. Moreover, they focus on issues which were crucial in the life of the Weimar Republic. Some of Kehr's articles—like the one on the reserve officers—are concerned with civil-military relations in the times of the empire and discuss the political consequences of the elimination of civilian control and of the direct subordination of the army to the monarch. This has a bearing on one of the most decisive weaknesses of the Weimar Republic: the independence of the Reichswehr, which originated almost accidentally, and then, under Hindenburg's presidency, became almost legally sanctioned—with the result that nationalist-monarchist organizations were protected by the Reichswehr and that the Reichswehr influenced foreign policy. Likewise Kehr's essays on the Puttkamer system revealed the strength of the civil service ideology and was related to a contemporary problem, that of the German civil service whose members, in the early days of the Republic, had been given the assurance that their privileges (pension rights, seniority, tenure) would be preserved and who, secure in their position, remained hostile to the Republic. In other places Kehr dealt with the problem of the financing of navy propaganda. He wished to show that financial groups—industry, banks, agriculture—were acquiring a new role in the means of communication might exert a significant influence on political life.

Most of Kehr's articles were published in the *Gesellschaft*, whose official editor was Hilferding, the German socialist leader. They were addressed to the Socialist Party, directing attention to the dangers in hesitating to eliminate adherents of the former regime from the strongholds of power. Kehr certainly had selected the right targets. The *Gesellschaft* preserved autonomy of the Reichswehr, civil service which at best was neutral and which was certainly never committed to the Republic, the influence of heavy industry in the press and the cinema, all counted decisively to the demise of German parliamentary democracy. In his introductory essay Craig dealt remarks on Kehr's methodological lack of precision and a tendency to overstate his case. These faults weigh less heavily as one realizes that Kehr was passionately engaged in German politics and that many of his studies are not meant to be objective, scholarly presentations but interventions in the political struggle of his time with scholarly weapons.

Inadequate consideration of the role which politics played in Kehr's writings and his assumption that he has resulted in some distortion of his biography. We owe Wehler satisfaction for a careful collection of all the material of Kehr's life that has survived the storms of Nazism and war. Wehler has emphasized the contrast between Kehr's concept of history and the traditional view of history as the work of German historians. Craig in his introduction takes up this point when he writes that in embarking on the investigation of internal economic pressures in Germany "Kehr was to use the language of *Trauernde* in depicting himself, the black spot" as far as his future career was concerned. Although it is certainly true that Kehr did not work along the officially approved lines of historical research, it should not be considered as a rank outsider. Nobody who studied history in Germany in the 1920s could be unaware of the hold which traditional political

and diplomatic history still had among most of the history professors, or that many, if not most of them, had nationalistic and monarchistic inclinations and were not pleased to have young colleagues and pupils who were policy an irreversible course. Decision lay with personalities and was not dependent on anonymous forces. That is why for Kehr the 1890s were the turning-point in German history.

But it ought not to be overlooked that Prussia, the largest German state, had a socialist Minister of Education and that Baden, with its two prestigious universities, was a very liberal state. Slowly, particularly slowly in the field of history, scholars of a less tradition-bound outlook began to obtain professorial chairs. Kehr felt himself to be the leader of a new modern school of historians—a role which those who knew him felt he had a good right to claim. He had little doubt that a prominent role in German academic life was his due and would come to him. Perhaps he was over-optimistic. Kehr was somewhat naive. He came from a family of civil servants, and although from his early years he rebelled against the values of his father's profession, elements of a Prussian civil service tradition survived in him. One did not work for material rewards; *Cravacher pour le roi de Prusse* seemed quite natural with him. Rich people filled him with distrust; it was hard to convince him that people of great financial means could be honest and could think of anything other than of acquiring more wealth by good or evil means. Some of this feeling may be seen in his writings. The legacy of civil service morality might have helped to produce in Kehr the astounding belief in the unavailability of a victory over tyrants and despots; his letters show that he was convinced that even proponents of nationalism would give in when he presented them with historical documentation for his statements. He could not imagine that anyone could be seriously offended by hearing the truth; his radicalism was rooted in a certain unworldliness.

But even if he was too sanguine about the chances of a new departure in German historical studies, Kehr had some reason for optimism. In the first years after his PhD he received all the advancement which a young scholar could expect for an academic career, and he was an assistant at the Historical Seminar at the University of Berlin; lecturer at the Hochschule für Politik; grants for research, and finally an important commission from the administration of the Prussian State Archives. However, at the beginning of the 1930s his career—perhaps not quite smooth, but certainly remarkably swift—was interrupted. Like once democratically inclined people of his generation, Kehr was faced with Brüning as Chancellor, power had come into the hands of the gravediggers of the republic and that the overthrow of the Prussian government by Papen in the following year completed this process. In Kehr's case the shock of these political disasters was augmented by frequent serious illness which indicated that he would not have long to live. There was no reason for Kehr's optimism; his chances for an academic career in Germany had evaporated. And now indeed the historical establishment, again firmly in the saddle, turned against him. These conditions Kehr exaggerated and the "unpleasantness" of some of his arguments. It should be remembered that the studies which have these defects to the highest degree are those of his last period, ending with the article on the German historiographical establishment in which he cut the bond with his teacher, Meinecke.

These biographical remarks and corrections seem to be appropriate because they point to the fact that the two works which have now come out in English editions ought to be read on two levels. They are remarkable treatments of modern German history, but they also throw light on the times in which they were written. Meinecke and Kehr did not consider the times in which they lived in the way we have become accustomed to view the Weimar Republic: as destined for collapse because of the weaknesses of their internal structure. In our own time, when the efforts of historians are frequently directed to demonstrate that historical events take the course which they ought to have taken, it is well to be reminded that for those who live and act at a given time the situation is open-ended; and that, in order to understand, we have to take into account their hopes and fears.

## Turning the screws

By J. P. Kenyon

MAJSE RUTHVEN: *Torture. The Grand Conspiracy*. 342pp. Weidenfeld and Nicolson. £10.

This is a muddled, and at the same time a highly intelligent book. It is not really about torture at all, and at almost every stage the word "torture" could be replaced by "tyranny" or "persecution". Indeed, large sections of the book are devoted to the discussion of episodes, such as the Albigensian Crusade and the Stalinist Terror of the 1930s, in which torture played a comparatively slight part, and emerged late.

An early distinction is made between the two different functions of torture—to force confessions, and to force a change in allegiance—but later in the book these are abandoned by an overriding third reason, which is to create an atmosphere of terror. Torture is never defined, nor is the boundary between torture and hard interrogation. The mechanical apparatus of medieval torture is clinically described—I should have made it clear earlier that this is not a book for the ratiocated sado-masochist—but later refinements, such as electric-shock treatment, are taken very much for granted, and the distinction between torture and intimidation is never properly delineated.

The distinction seems to lie in the duration and the permanent damage done; torture is something which inflicts infinite pain and discomfort short of death; thus the inquisition only with reluctance and after careful thought resorted to the fourth and fifth degrees, the *strappado*, which inflicted permanent and sometimes fatal damage. Therefore a severe beating-up is not torture; it is a process which cannot be carried too far and is not after careful thought resorted to. The function must be to break the victim's self-confidence. On the other hand the "conveyor" system, of ceaseless round-the-clock interrogation clearly is torture.

Malise Ruthven understands this distinction, I am sure, but he does not make it, and in discussing specific examples, such as the Soviet Purges, he does not consistently apply it;

beatings are accepted as torture, and "conveyor" interrogations are sometimes seen as falling short of it.

The conclusion to be drawn from the book, though without the author's assistance, is that torture is only effective if it is used sparingly and its use is limited by strict rules, as with the early Inquisition. If leading questions are put, or if the torture is too severe, then the process is self-defeating; also, if a court of law does not know whether the witnesses before it have been tortured or not, or how far, then it is almost impossible to arrive at the truth. But Mr Ruthven does not regard torture as a means of arriving at the truth; most regimes use it as a means of burrowing at falsehood, which confirms their own neurotic imaginings. It is thus a reinforcing agent. The idea suggests that torture is itself a conspiracy, a secret process directed at undermining society, or some such.

Not so, though we do not discover this until page 70, and the point is only taken up and elaborated towards the end of the book, when the "Grand Conspiracy" of the Middle Ages is transformed into the "conspiracy" scenario of our pathetic modern age. Random torture designed to elicit the names of fellow criminals, with the victim given a strong lead as to what is required, followed by further torture applied to those named, and the strategy of the early book, serves to buttress the neurotic fears of frail regimes, whose inferiority complexes may even be assumed by the discovery that they are formidable enough to provoke such conspiratorial action.

This may be so, though it cannot be applied very neatly to the examples he uses. To depict Stalin and his minions were oppressed by some kind of conspiracy theory in the 1930s, but there is no evidence that they needed to use torture to achieve their ends. The book authorities may have believed that the growth of heresy in thirteenth-century Languedoc constituted a "grand conspiracy", but the motives of the Inquisition were clearly mercenary; this is even more obvious in the suppression of the Templars by Philip the Fair.

The general revolutionary conspiracy which was the obsession of nineteenth-century European governments is even less robust, and it is unjustified to police and counter-security establishments. More-

over, in none of these cases, torture a necessary and integral part of the process. The only exception seems to be the sixteenth-century Inquisition, which, in the fifteenth century, was a strange enough, ship through definitions, because their conspiracy was mounted by religious and religious groups who were slow to use torture, and they did it was used most tentatively, and purely to extract information. Torture is now used, according to Mr Ruthven, by states which are weak, they are lacking in confidence, and they need to use their own defects by reference to their strong, ramified conspiracy against them. But it is surely not even when every allowance is made for patriotic prejudice, to see this theory to the government of India in the 1930s, or the attempt to extract information from the case of Ustia in the 1950s would be simply futile.

In a chapter devoted to the Italian prison conditions in the nineteenth century Mr Ruthven's reaction to the reaction of the Italian science, in the person of the Marquis, to torture, though it is a strange one, is not without a certain sense. Unfortunately, Ruthven's assumption is that the liberal conscience is always in a state of self-defeating.

In fact, though though no doubt a bad thing, it is not the result of the recognition of the case of the early book, but not so readily discarded. It is still a viable, if not a justifiable, accessory to a type of investigation, it is as he says, that modern revolutionary movements are so much more likely to experience a sense of separation from family and community than men: "That's the way it happens." From family perhaps, though this needs arguing, but from the larger community, the sense of separation, in family, as well as the community of work, were crucial for a number of Victorian fictional heroes—Tom Tulliver, Lydgate, Daniel Deronda, Pip, Strether, and within Professor Lucas's own region of fiction, for several male characters in *North and South* and *Jude*.

This large assumption is characteristic of the unexamined which the book's argument is conducted. From time to time the author seems to chafe against the limits of his own book, remarking that he has not time to discuss this or that subject. The reader is brought up against a sense of unexamined limit, which is bound to strike him as somewhat arbitrary. If there actually was a "space" for the discussion of the subject, these three individuals and the intercommunication will remain the focus of the fourth. For the purpose of the book, it is not surprising to be used by any police or security establishment, it can get on with it or does not care.

## Strains on the self

By Barbara Hardy

JOHN LUCAS: *The Literature of Change. Studies in the Nineteenth-Century Provincial Novel*. 217pp. Harvester Press. £3.50.

John Lucas has written a likable, modest, illuminating, but uneven book about the record of social change offered by three provincial novels. Mrs Gaskell's *William Hale White* (Mark Rutherford), and Thomas Hardy. He finds these three writers "uniquely well placed" to register, explore, and note the effects of change on individuals, patterns of life, and communities. I do not know about the uniqueness. There is a sense in which any book is unique, but here the matter of a unique historical standpoint seems established. He makes out a good, though I think not totally convincing, case for Jane Austen's lack of attention to the strains imposed on the individual by social and personal conflicts, but leaves undiscussed the question of later analyses of change. I am also rather doubtful about his assumption that the novel is obviously more likely to experience a sense of separation from family and community than men: "That's the way it happens." From family perhaps, though this needs arguing, but from the larger community, the sense of separation, in family, as well as the community of work, were crucial for a number of Victorian fictional heroes—Tom Tulliver, Lydgate, Daniel Deronda, Pip, Strether, and within Professor Lucas's own region of fiction, for several male characters in *North and South* and *Jude*.

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We get another view at the end of the chapter, when Mr Spink is asked about her face, and describes it in terms which almost echo Tolstoy's "the source of the title" when he describes "a face you can hardly gaze at. A very good pink face, as far as that goes. Still, only a face, when all is said and done." These preliminary images of course be assimilated to Professor Lucas's interpretation, but his neat pattern of the novel's progression would have to be untidied a little, and his sense of the choir's social awareness modified a little more. Hardy constantly mingles the social issue with personal matters, such as the natural.

But the likeliest place for economy, as I think the author may be, is in the section on Hardy, where it is right to say that his central theme has not been previ-

ously discussed. Still, it has not directly been discussed in George Eliot's work, and he sensibly leaves her out because so much has been written about her. I should be surprised, however, if Hardy critics and readers responded with much interest to this part of the book.

Like the other sections, it is written in an attractively personal, colloquial, no-nonsense style, which I rather liked, though it does scarcely make for economy. Professor Lucas speaks of Hardy dramatizing "his exploration of the social process", then looks at his words with repulsion: "not that Hardy actually sat down at his desk to 'dramatize' an exploration of the social process." That's critic's talk. I'm not sure what sort of talk this critic thinks he is using. The analysis is critic's talk; what else could it be? It is critic's talk to put other critics in their place, he does not say so, and is indeed generous to other critics. But he is of course right to make his literary materials a matter for an investigation which is not just stylistic or structural but, like his other books, historically alert.

He starts with a précis of the plot of *Under the Greenwood Tree*, which is perhaps not just there to remind those who have forgotten the story or to make up to those who have not read it. To stick close to the plot, mingling interpretation and paraphrase, is rather dangerous to pursue accuracy. To compare Bathsheba's refusal to tell her name, and her address to Gabriel as "Gabriel Oak", with Wrayburn's putting down of Bradley Headstone in the reductive role of "the master" is a little more than a little. To emphasize a spiritual and superior vision, an image which gradually becomes stained with materiality as the novel progresses. But if we go back to what is really the reader's first view of Fancy in the prologue, we find her presented in an extremely material image, through her shoe. Not only the reader, but the man looking at the shoe's flexible bend at the instep, regarded her as a physical presence. Dick is both attracted and a little embarrassed by the intimate object.

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## The seriously comic

By George Speaight

WILLIAM COX-IFRE: *Stage Director*. 110pp. Dennis Dobson. £4.25.

I recall a debate at my preparatory school on the theme "Which was the better—Gilbert or Sullivan?" The best, or, as it might be said, the best of the boys, spoke up for Gilbert. Now our present judgment is beginning to change, and this book by a former chorister of the D'Oyly Carte Opera Company gives a further insight into Gilbert's reputation, with, of course, disparaging his musical collaborator.

In 1961, when Gilbert followed Sullivan out of copyright, there was considerable expectation that modern theatre historians would show how the operas ought to be staged and how they came out of business the way traditional staging of the

of passionate youth and sober middle age, so that Dick's visions are not simply social visions if they are that at all, but visions of the human condition, and change are inextricably woven into the themes of age-consciousness and change.

The process of simplification continues through most of Hardy's other major novels. I cannot agree that Bathsheba's early response to Gabriel Oak comes from her sense of class superiority, but if it does, it is certainly a sense of class superiority, which makes her shy, interested, uncertain, capricious, of course, with social position and convention, but Hardy rather shrewdly sees that as common to most of that class.

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a defence of the contemporary D'Oyly Carte productions as a championing of Gilbert as a stage director. But, as the book goes on, it is clear that the D'Oyly Carte company, in so far as the present company has preserved Gilbert's fundamental approach, it does not extend to the minutiae of its stage business. There was one golden rule about which Gilbert was adamant: "It is absolutely essential to the success of a comic opera that it should be played with a seriousness throughout." Under Gilbert's iron discipline actors were kept in check (though surely allowed some licence in their encores) and gaudy of their roles was sternly repressed. It is this principle that has been abandoned in some recent revivals, with embarrassing results.

The truth of the matter is that Gilbert's contribution to the Gilbert and Sullivan operas was not so much the rather silly plots that he devised, as the wonderful acting opportunities that he created. He then inspired casting of the roles, and the firmness and inventiveness of his direction.

has been spent. As the lively and sparkling emotions of her early married life cohered into an equable serenity, the finer movements of her nature found scope in discovering to the narrow-lived ones around her the secret (as she had once learnt it) of making limited opportunities endurable; which she deemed to consist in the cunning enlargement, by a species of microscopic treatment, of those minute forms of satisfaction that offer themselves to everybody not in positive pain; which, thus handled have much of the same inspiring effect upon life as wider interests cursorily embraced.

Selectivity is at its worst in the discussion of Sue, where the critic imposes his views of representativeness on the novel, then accuses Hardy for not conforming to them: "At first glance it may look as though with Sue we are dealing with a subject familiar enough from Hardy's own fiction." (Critics' talk?) Lucas goes on to argue that Sue and Hardy introduce ideas about "the nature of women" that have nothing to do with the social process, and thus weaken the novel. But although we may now know more about the line between social and biological influences, it seems quite reasonable that Sue and Hardy should not, and should go on about the weaker sex and the inextinguishable nature of woman. Hardy's clear but quiet registration of such things as psychological caprice, sexual distaste, and maternal feeling all show his sense of the physical and psychological problems of a woman's body, which can still seem pretty inexorable and must have seemed even more so in Hardy's time.

It is true that the novel might be more complete if there were a character mediating between Bathsheba's crude survival techniques and Sue's refinement, but it is not such a demand sociological rather than literary? Novelists do not have to give a fair sample in each novel, and Tess and Eustacia are proofs that Hardy could accumulate a whole spectrum of women's problems. It seems to be perfectly likely that Sue should feel faint when the Inspector comes in—to be a young woman bossed professionally by an older man was not a new experience, even if the young woman is not a Sue Bridehead. It is an experience where social and sexual discomforts reinforce each other.

Hardy may have had special personal reasons for being interested in looking at an exceptionally frigid woman, but the blend of actual and social responses is just the kind of thing Lawrence observes and presents so finely, in the face-making scene in *Sons and Lovers*, for example. It seems to me that the critic, not the novelist, is aiming at an isolation of cause, effect, and social representativeness.

I have dwelt on Hardy, ungratefully, because the other parts are really excellent, especially the discussion of William Hale White. I have, long thought, *Sylvia's Lovers* was the best historical novel written in

English in the nineteenth century, and *Cousin Phillis* that very rare thing, an English novella of love, and was delighted by Lucas's high praise and sensitive analysis. He works on these novels with a total devotion to the subtlety of social exploration and psychological analysis, and the carefully detailed comparison of Mrs Gaskell's *Manchester* with Engle's *Manche*, making the readings of Hardy even more surprisingly partial. In the discussion of Mrs Gaskell and William Hale White, Professor Lucas is at his best, bringing out not only the novel's special kind of social observation, but its uniquely impassioned modes of criticism and appeal. We see the equality of opportunity which is shared by the novelist and the social thinker, and the critic's perception of the novelist's sensibility makes valuable comparisons as well as valuable distinctions.

But what is even more admirable, perhaps, is the movement away from literary critical classification which makes Lucas able to compare the experience of Mrs Gaskell with the experience of Engels. The second chapter is one of the best demonstrations I have come across of Lawrence's recommendation which we trust the tale and not the artist. Lucas is keenly aware of Mrs Gaskell's defensiveness and timidity in her handling of such touchy subjects as capital, profit, and rebellion. These go clean counter to her recommendations. The right refusal to separate Mrs Gaskell's sensibility and experience as a woman from her sensibility and experience as a novelist. Of course it is through her language and skill that we feel the pressure and pain of her experience, but the contrast with Engels brings out the fact of full and close observation, a faculty which is not narrowly aesthetic. There are passages to psycho-analytical commentary, too, which make the book a most valuable close reading of these novelists. Only one quarrel with Professor Lucas on the subject of Mrs Gaskell: I think he is absolutely wrong to leave *Cransford* out of his discussion as an "idyllic novel" ministering to the remembrance of things past. Miss Barry should be as resonant a name in the history of feminine fiction as Margaret Tulkior and Mrs Gaskell's analysis of social change and individual strains and conflicts is sometimes so muted and implicit that we may fail to recognize it. But John Lucas does such a good job of recognizing the social implications of *Cousin Phillis* that I am surprised at his dismissal and simplification of *Cransford*, and perhaps of *Wives and Daughters* too.

Two thirds of the book, then, should engage new readers for Mrs Gaskell and William Hale White, not only because of the critic's sensitiveness but because his analysis is fired with enthusiasm. He says at the beginning that these "are all marvellous writers", and succeeds in showing that they are also marvellous historians, in their own special way. The novel's particular is finely appreciated, with all its implications, in Mrs Gaskell and William Hale White, and the struggle between self and the social group which they show is after all only a Victorian version of a struggle that still exists. I am sorry about the Hardy, but enlightened by the rest of the book.

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Academic Headquarters: Language Centre, University of Kent

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**Assistant Librarian**

Local Government Library and Information Service

An interesting opportunity exists for a chartered librarian to be responsible for the Library and Information Service to Local Government in Bedfordshire. Experience in reference, technical or college librarianship would be an advantage. The person appointed would be a member of the County Reference and Information Team based at County Library Headquarters, Bedford.

The salary for these two posts is: Librarians' Career Grade AP5, £2,922 to £4,095, plus supplements. Progression beyond £3,282 and £3,702 dependent upon responsibility and experience. For further details and application forms, please ring Bedford 63222, extension 101, or write to Personnel Officer, County Hall, Bedford. Closing date: May 16, 1978.

**Bedfordshire**

COUNTY COUNCIL

**SCHOOL OF LIBRARIANSHIP****SENIOR LECTURER/  
LECTURER**

Graduate Librarians required in the Organisation and Administration subject area for BA(CNAA) and Postgraduate Diploma (CNAA) courses.

Salary scales in range (under review)—  
Senior Lecturer £6504-£8220 per annum  
Lecturer £3688-£6999 per annum  
Assistance with removal expenses.

Details from Chief Administrative Officer, Robert Gordon's Institute of Technology, Schoolhill, Aberdeen AB9 1FR. (0224-574511).

**CORNWALL**

County Library Service

**Team Librarian**

East Area £2,569-£3,773 p.a.

including supplements

Qualified librarians are invited to apply for this post within the County Library Service. Cornwall operates a professional team structure headed by a Senior Management Team and the person appointed will have the motivation and ability to develop services within their area. The salary will be within the Librarian's scale, £2,569-£3,773 p.a. with the commencing point for chartered librarians, £3,395 p.a. As the person appointed will be required to provide professional services at more than one branch, the post includes a casual car user's allowance and the ability to drive is essential.

Application forms and job descriptions may be obtained from the County Librarian, County Library Headquarters, Old County Hall, Station Road, Truro, Mr. R. Pybus, Truro 4282, Ext. 278.

Closing date for applications 26th May, 1978.

**LEITER(IN) DES  
ANTIQUARIATES**

Für unser grosses Laden-Antiquariat im Zentrum Düsseldorf, in dem wir neben der bibliophilen, schöngestigten und wissenschaftlichen Literatur auch dekorative Graphik und Modernes Antiquariat führen, ist gegen Ende dieses Jahres die Position des Leiters neu zu besetzen.

Dieser sehr selbständige, entwicklungs-fähige Wirkungskreis verlangt neben guten Fachkenntnissen die Fähigkeit, ein Team von Mitarbeitern zu führen. Er ist den Anforderungen entsprechend dotiert.

Sollten Sie eine solche Tätigkeit bisher noch nicht ausgeübt haben, geben wir Gelegenheit zur Einarbeitung. Ihr Eintritt könnte kurzfristig erfolgen. Bitte rufen Sie uns an (Klaus Janssen) oder schreiben Sie uns, wenn Sie sich von dieser vielseitigen Aufgabe angesprochen fühlen. Auch Bewerber mit fachverwandtem Studium oder Praxis sind eingeladen, sich mit uns in Verbindung zu setzen.

**STERN-VERLAG  
JANSSEN & CO.**

Buchhandlung Antiquariat

Friedrichstrasse 24-26

4000 Düsseldorf

Tel. 0211/37 30 33

**THE BRITISH LIBRARY**

Assistant Keeper

**JAPANESE  
COLLECTIONS**

... to join the Department of Oriental Manuscripts and Printed Books, and be responsible for management of the Japanese Collections (about 50,000 volumes) both antiquarian and modern. Work involves the selection, cataloguing and indexing of new material and regular scanning of current and antiquarian catalogues, and includes providing information on all aspects of Japanese literature, life and culture to academic researchers and the public, compiling catalogues on special aspects of the Collections, and exhibition work.

Candidates (aged at least 26) must have a degree with 1st or 2nd-class honours in Japanese or an equivalent or higher qualification. Experience of library work or academic research in the Japanese field and/or a qualification in librarianship advantageous.

Starting salary within the range £5,390 to £8,095 according to qualifications and experience. Salary under review. Non-contributory pension scheme.

For further details and an application form (to be returned by June 5, 1978) write to Civil Service Commission, Alison Link, Basingstoke, Hampshire RG21 1JB, or telephone Basingstoke (0256) 68551 (answering service operates outside office hours). Please quote Q(18)382.

**BOOK EXHIBITION****150 YEARS OF THE  
PUBLISHING HOUSE  
OF THE HUNGARIAN  
ACADEMY OF SCIENCES**

500 titles, majority in the English language, in the Humanities, Sciences and Technology.

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129-131, Charing Cross Rd.,  
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Weekdays: 9.30 to 8 p.m.

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**BBC  
REFERENCE LIBRARY**

at

BROADCASTING HOUSE

requires

**QUALIFIED  
LIBRARIAN**

With good Reference Library experience to join team of Enquiry Assistants operating a reference service within the Central Reference Library of the BBC.

Salary £3,200 p.a. (may be higher if qualifications exceptional) x £160 to £4,040 p.a. Post carries an approximately 4 per cent Shift Allowance. Telephone or write immediately, enclosing addressed envelope, for application form quoting reference 78.G.1278.TL, to Appointments Department, BBC, London W1A 1AA. Tel. 01-580 4468 ext. 4619.

**CITY OF DUNDEE DISTRICT COUNCIL**

Applications are invited from men/women for the under-noted superannuable posts in the Libraries Department.

**SENIOR ASSISTANT  
CHIEF LIBRARIAN**

(Lending Services)

Salary Scale: £4,545-£4,998 per annum plus supplements of £520 per annum. Applicants for this post must be suitably qualified librarians with good experience in senior library management.

**SENIOR LIBRARIANS**

(1) REFERENCE SERVICES

(2) BIBLIOGRAPHIC SERVICES

Salary Scale: £3,474-£3,825 per annum plus supplements of £312 plus 5 per cent. Applicants for each of these posts must be suitably qualified librarians with some relevant experience in middle library management.

**TRAINEE LIBRARIANS**

Salary Scale: Up to £2,529 plus Stage 1 supplement of £312, plus Stage 2 supplement of 5 per cent with a minimum of £130 per annum. Applicants must have completed post-graduate library school training, or have completed, or will shortly complete, the professional examination of the Library Association.

Application forms and further particulars may be obtained from the Personnel Officer (Recruitment), 14 City Square, Dundee, DD1 3BL (telephone 0382 23141, ext. 239). Completed forms should be lodged with the undersigned not later than 2nd June, 1978.

Gordon S. Watson, Town Clerk and Chief Executive, City Chambers, Dundee, DD1 3BY.

**GWENT COLLEGE OF HIGHER EDUCATION****SENIOR TUTOR LIBRARIAN**

(Salary £5,523-£6,909)

Qualified, graduate Tutor Librarian required from September 1st, 1978, or as soon as possible. The Tutor Librarian will be responsible for library services across the College. Applicants should possess good professional and academic backgrounds with experience of various validating boards. Experience in teacher training would be useful, as would experience in the development of multimedia collections.

Salary Scale Burnham F.E. Senior Lecturer with academic conditions of service.

Application forms and further details from the Principal Administrative Officer, Gwent College of Higher Education, College Crescent, CAERLEON, Gwent NP23 1XJ.

Applications to be returned within 14 days of this advertisement.

**J. WHITAKER & SONS LTD.,  
Book Trade Publishers**

Academics are required for permanent posts in the Book Trade Department, which is responsible for the company's book trade bibliography as well as the administration of the Standard Book Numbering Agency.

All publications are computer produced, but knowledge of computer applications is not essential, as training will be given. Library and/or book trade experience would be an advantage. Competitive salaries, pension scheme, comfortable working conditions. Hours 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. No application forms are available. Please write, giving full details, to: James Collet.

**J. WHITAKER & SONS LTD**

12 DVOT STREET, LONDON WC1A 1DP

our new address is from April 1978.



## CLASSIFIED ADVERTISEMENTS

## Senior Career Opportunities

Two new senior posts have been created in connection with the establishment of a new Central Unit for the reorganised Polytechnic libraries. Both posts are based at Southgate, north London, although it is expected that postholders' duties will take them to other sites of the Polytechnic.

## Chief Cataloguer (Ref. 84-10)

£5,044-£5,797 p.a. inc.

(Plus Phase III Salary award, payable from July 1)

to be responsible for all cataloguing and classification activities within a new centralised system to be based on BLCMP practice. The appointee will have experience of automated cataloguing systems, advanced cataloguing skills and an ability to manage people and systems. Appropriate professional qualifications and experience are also necessary, preferably together with an interest in developments in higher education.

## Bibliographical Librarian (Ref. 113-4)

£5,044-£5,797 p.a. inc.

(Plus Phase III salary award, payable from July 1)

to organise a standardised acquisitions system based on the new Central Unit, involving: setting up new book processing procedures based on BLCMP; organizing and co-ordinating stock movement, helping with editing of stock and setting up of a new central reserve store, monitoring use of stock, improving book supply, and investigating possible automation applications.

The person appointed will have graduate status, and relevant experience and professional qualifications. The ability to make firm decisions and a willingness to discuss ideas and other points of view is required, together with good communication and organizational skills.

Please write for full details and an application form, stating clearly which post you are applying for, and post first-class to: Appointments Officer (quote ref.), Middlesex Polytechnic, Bourne Green Road, London N11 2NQ. Closing date: May 22.

Middlesex Polytechnic

## LIBRARIAN/INFORMATION OFFICER

National Management Centre

Strafford upon Avon up to £5,215

British Gas has recently established a National Management Centre which will offer a variety of residential programmes and courses for the industry, including general management programmes for middle managers and specialist programmes for senior executives and functional managers.

A Librarian/Information Officer is now required to establish and operate a library and information service which will be used by the National Management Centre for its own activities and will be made available as a resource within British Gas. The person appointed will also be expected to provide tutorial instruction of course members on the sources and use of information.

We are looking for a Chartered Librarian with several years' experience of library/information service work, preferably in a management, business or related environment.

Applicants must also be able to demonstrate that they can work closely with a team of highly specialized tutors in management subjects and that they can communicate effectively at all management levels. Salary range £4,417 to £5,215 inclusive of phases I and II pay policy supplements.

Please write with full details of age, qualifications, experience and current salary, quoting reference PER/407801, to: The Senior Librarian, Officer (London), British Gas, 59 Bryanston Street, London W1A 2AZ. Closing date for applications: May 26, 1978.

## BRITISH GAS

LONDON AND SOUTH EASTERN LIBRARY REGION (LASER)

## TEMPORARY SENIOR ASSISTANT LIBRARIAN

required for a period of twelve months to cover a member of LASER staff who is being seconded to a British Library research project. The post is based at the British Library, London WC2E 9BT. Salary range £3,223 to £3,822 plus London weighting (£435), plus a 5 per cent. earnings supplement. Local Government conditions of service. Required to assist in planning and organization of inter-lending and cataloguing routines using a microcomputer system. Further details from the Director, LASER, 33/34 Alfred Place, London WC1E 7DP, by May 31, 1978.

## Data Engineering Saudi Arabia Tax Free Salaries

One of the most important contracts to have been won by a single contractor in recent years is the Yanbu project - awarded to Parsons. This is your opportunity to take part in the development of a whole new city by the Red Sea.

Use your technical expertise with us and you'll be in at the start, helping us to create a centre of commerce and government, seaport and docks, processing and manufacturing facilities and high quality community environment.

Your involvement will relate to documentation control, configuration management and preparation of technical publications including word processing. So in addition to a sound technical experience, you'll need experience in one or more of

those fields. And your background is likely to include work in a technical library where, desirably, you will have been exposed to microfilm/microfiche and computerised retrieval systems.

These posts will be based initially in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia and furnished accommodation is provided, single or married status. Excellent salaries are in force and there are many other benefits.

Please send a brief CV or ask for an application form quoting Ref. TS/12/5 to the Personnel Department (Yanbu Project), The Ralph M. Parsons Company Limited, Parsons House, New Bridge Road, Brentford, Middlesex, Tel: 01-588 5051.

Ralph M. Parsons

## HULL COLLEGE OF HIGHER EDUCATION ARTS COUNCIL FELLOWSHIP IN CREATIVE WRITING

Applications are invited for appointment to an ARTS COUNCIL FELLOWSHIP IN CREATIVE WRITING (with special reference to Drama or Poetry or Radio/Television), tenable at the College for the academic year 1978-79.

Remuneration for this one-year-only Fellowship will be £3,500 (of which £2,000 represents an Arts Council grant and £1,500 represents augmentation by the College).

The Fellow will be expected to reside on a main College campus (a range of residential accommodation, suitable for differing personal circumstances is available at economical rates).

Applicants should be persons of high literary and creative ability, who will be expected to contribute in ways such as open lectures, informal seminars, general advice to staff and students, etc. This will be so arranged as to leave adequate time for the completion of the Fellowship.

Applications, which should be received no later than Wednesday, 31st May, are to be made by letter and should include particulars of age, education, experience, publications, etc., together with the names and addresses of two referees and a brief statement of how the applicant considers that the terms of the Fellowship may be made most fruitful to both the College and the Fellow.

Copies of published works (which will eventually be returned to applicants) should also be enclosed. Further particulars may be obtained from the Applications Section, Hull College of Higher Education, Cottingham Road, Hull, HU6 7RT.

Envelopes should be clearly marked 'Fellowship in Creative Writing'.

## Essex County Library

## County Science and Technical Librarian

£2,430-£2,992 plus £312 p.a. supplement and Stage 2 supplement.

Applications are invited from suitably qualified librarians for the newly established post of County Science and Technical Librarian to be based at County Library Headquarters, Chelmsford.

The successful applicant, who will be a librarian with experience in technical or specialist libraries, will be one of a team of six subject specialists and will be responsible under the general direction of the Principal Assistant Librarian-Bibliographical Services for the selection and exploitation throughout the County of stock in the fields of science and technology, and will also be responsible for the management of the County Technical Library Service.

Further details are available from Barry Langton, County Librarian, County Library, Gilday Gardens, Chelmsford (Tel. no. Chelmsford 51141), to whom applications should be sent with the names of two referees by May 30th, 1978.

Essex County Council

## CLASSIFIED ADVERTISEMENTS

## LIBRARIANS

## COUNTY OF SHROPSHIRE EDUCATION COMMITTEE

## SHROPSHIRE TECHNICAL COLLEGE

Applications are invited for the post of ASSISTANT LIBRARIAN in the above post. The successful candidate will be responsible for the day-to-day running of the library and will be expected to supervise the work of the library staff. The post is a full-time position and will be held on a permanent basis. The salary is £3,200 p.a. plus a 5 per cent. supplement. Applications should be sent to the Principal, Shropshire Technical College, Shrewsbury, Shropshire, SY1 2JF. Closing date: 25th May, 1978.

## PAPUA NEW GUINEA

## UNIVERSITY OF TECHNOLOGY

## MATHEMATICS LIBRARY

## TECHNICAL SERVICES LIBRARIAN

Applications are invited for the post of ASSISTANT LIBRARIAN in the above post. The successful candidate will be responsible for the day-to-day running of the library and will be expected to supervise the work of the library staff. The post is a full-time position and will be held on a permanent basis. The salary is £3,200 p.a. plus a 5 per cent. supplement. Applications should be sent to the Principal, University of Technology, Port Moresby, Papua New Guinea. Closing date: 25th May, 1978.

## TEMPORARY POST FOR ASSISTANT LIBRARIAN, INFORMATION OFFICER

## KIDDEGGE LIBRARY

## CITY OF MANCHESTER

## CULTURAL SERVICES

## AUDIO VISUAL SERVICES

Applications are invited from librarians experienced in work with audio-visual materials for the post of ASSISTANT LIBRARIAN in the above post. The successful candidate will be responsible for the day-to-day running of the library and will be expected to supervise the work of the library staff. The post is a full-time position and will be held on a permanent basis. The salary is £3,200 p.a. plus a 5 per cent. supplement. Applications should be sent to the Principal, City of Manchester, Manchester, M1 2JF. Closing date: 25th May, 1978.

## OPEN UNIVERSITY LIBRARY

## LIBRARY ASSISTANT

Applications are invited for the post of ASSISTANT LIBRARIAN in the above post. The successful candidate will be responsible for the day-to-day running of the library and will be expected to supervise the work of the library staff. The post is a full-time position and will be held on a permanent basis. The salary is £3,200 p.a. plus a 5 per cent. supplement. Applications should be sent to the Principal, Open University, Milton Keynes, MK8 0AA. Closing date: 25th May, 1978.

## OXFORD UNIVERSITY LIBRARY

## LIBRARY ASSISTANT

Applications are invited for the post of ASSISTANT LIBRARIAN in the above post. The successful candidate will be responsible for the day-to-day running of the library and will be expected to supervise the work of the library staff. The post is a full-time position and will be held on a permanent basis. The salary is £3,200 p.a. plus a 5 per cent. supplement. Applications should be sent to the Principal, Oxford University, Oxford, OX1 2JF. Closing date: 25th May, 1978.

## LANCASHIRE POLYTECHNIC

## LIBRARY ASSISTANT

Applications are invited for the post of ASSISTANT LIBRARIAN in the above post. The successful candidate will be responsible for the day-to-day running of the library and will be expected to supervise the work of the library staff. The post is a full-time position and will be held on a permanent basis. The salary is £3,200 p.a. plus a 5 per cent. supplement. Applications should be sent to the Principal, Lancashire Polytechnic, Preston, Lancashire, PR1 2JF. Closing date: 25th May, 1978.

## BRITISH LIBRARY OF POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC SCIENCE

Applications are invited for the post of ASSISTANT LIBRARIAN in the above post. The successful candidate will be responsible for the day-to-day running of the library and will be expected to supervise the work of the library staff. The post is a full-time position and will be held on a permanent basis. The salary is £3,200 p.a. plus a 5 per cent. supplement. Applications should be sent to the Principal, British Library of Political and Economic Science, London, WC2E 9BT. Closing date: 25th May, 1978.

## LONDON BOROUGH OF TOWER HAMLETS

## LIBRARY ASSISTANT

Applications are invited for the post of ASSISTANT LIBRARIAN in the above post. The successful candidate will be responsible for the day-to-day running of the library and will be expected to supervise the work of the library staff. The post is a full-time position and will be held on a permanent basis. The salary is £3,200 p.a. plus a 5 per cent. supplement. Applications should be sent to the Principal, Tower Hamlets, London, E1 2JF. Closing date: 25th May, 1978.

## LEICESTER POLYTECHNIC

## LIBRARY ASSISTANT

Applications are invited for the post of ASSISTANT LIBRARIAN in the above post. The successful candidate will be responsible for the day-to-day running of the library and will be expected to supervise the work of the library staff. The post is a full-time position and will be held on a permanent basis. The salary is £3,200 p.a. plus a 5 per cent. supplement. Applications should be sent to the Principal, Leicester Polytechnic, Leicester, LE1 2JF. Closing date: 25th May, 1978.

## LONDON BOROUGH OF TOWER HAMLETS

## LIBRARY ASSISTANT

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## LONDON BOROUGH OF TOWER HAMLETS

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## LONDON BOROUGH OF TOWER HAMLETS

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## CENTRAL REGIONAL COUNCIL

## EDUCATION DEPARTMENT

## SCHOOL LIBRARIANS

Applications are invited for the post of ASSISTANT LIBRARIAN in the above post. The successful candidate will be responsible for the day-to-day running of the library and will be expected to supervise the work of the library staff. The post is a full-time position and will be held on a permanent basis. The salary is £3,200 p.a. plus a 5 per cent. supplement. Applications should be sent to the Principal, Central Regional Council, London, WC2E 9BT. Closing date: 25th May, 1978.

## METROPOLITAN BOROUGH OF SEFTON

## LIBRARIAN AND AIDE SERVICES

Applications are invited for the post of ASSISTANT LIBRARIAN in the above post. The successful candidate will be responsible for the day-to-day running of the library and will be expected to supervise the work of the library staff. The post is a full-time position and will be held on a permanent basis. The salary is £3,200 p.a. plus a 5 per cent. supplement. Applications should be sent to the Principal, Metropolitan Borough of Sefton, Sefton, Merseyside, L35 2JF. Closing date: 25th May, 1978.

## LONDON BOROUGH OF KIDDEGGE

## LIBRARIAN DEPARTMENT

Applications are invited for the post of ASSISTANT LIBRARIAN in the above post. The successful candidate will be responsible for the day-to-day running of the library and will be expected to supervise the work of the library staff. The post is a full-time position and will be held on a permanent basis. The salary is £3,200 p.a. plus a 5 per cent. supplement. Applications should be sent to the Principal, London Borough of Kiddegge, London, WC2E 9BT. Closing date: 25th May, 1978.

## UNIVERSITY OF LONDON

## INSTITUTE OF EDUCATION

Applications are invited for the post of ASSISTANT LIBRARIAN in the above post. The successful candidate will be responsible for the day-to-day running of the library and will be expected to supervise the work of the library staff. The post is a full-time position and will be held on a permanent basis. The salary is £3,200 p.a. plus a 5 per cent. supplement. Applications should be sent to the Principal, University of London, London, WC2E 9BT. Closing date: 25th May, 1978.

## CITY OF MANCHESTER

## CULTURAL SERVICES

Applications are invited for the post of ASSISTANT LIBRARIAN in the above post. The successful candidate will be responsible for the day-to-day running of the library and will be expected to supervise the work of the library staff. The post is a full-time position and will be held on a permanent basis. The salary is £3,200 p.a. plus a 5 per cent. supplement. Applications should be sent to the Principal, City of Manchester, Manchester, M1 2JF. Closing date: 25th May, 1978.

## OXFORD UNIVERSITY

## LIBRARY ASSISTANT

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## LANCASHIRE POLYTECHNIC

## LIBRARY ASSISTANT

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## BRITISH LIBRARY OF POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC SCIENCE

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## LONDON BOROUGH OF TOWER HAMLETS

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## LEICESTER POLYTECHNIC

## LIBRARY ASSISTANT

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## LONDON BOROUGH OF TOWER HAMLETS

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## LONDON BOROUGH OF TOWER HAMLETS

## LIBRARY ASSISTANT

Applications are invited for the post of ASSISTANT LIBRARIAN in the above post. The successful candidate will be responsible for the day-to-day running of the library and will be expected to supervise the work of the library staff. The post is a full-time position and will be held on a permanent basis. The salary is £3,200 p.a. plus a 5 per cent. supplement. Applications should be sent to the Principal, Tower Hamlets, London, E1 2JF. Closing date: 25th May, 1978.

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## THE ROYAL BOROUGH OF KENNINGTON AND CHICHESTER

## LIBRARY ASSISTANT

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## METROPOLITAN BOROUGH OF SEFTON

## LIBRARIAN AND AIDE SERVICES

Applications are invited for the post of ASSISTANT LIBRARIAN in the above post. The successful candidate will be responsible for the day-to-day running of the library and will be expected to supervise the work of the library staff. The post is a full-time position and will be held on a permanent basis. The salary is £3,200 p.a. plus a 5 per cent. supplement. Applications should be sent to the Principal, Metropolitan Borough of Sefton, Sefton, Merseyside, L35 2JF. Closing date: 25th May, 1978.

## LONDON BOROUGH OF KIDDEGGE

## LIBRARIAN DEPARTMENT

Applications are invited for the post of ASSISTANT LIBRARIAN in the above post. The successful candidate will be responsible for the day-to-day running of the library and will be expected to supervise the work of the library staff. The post is a full-time position and will be held on a permanent basis. The salary is £3,200 p.a. plus a 5 per cent. supplement. Applications should be sent to the Principal, London Borough of Kiddegge, London, WC2E 9BT. Closing date: 25th May, 1978.

## UNIVERSITY OF LONDON

## INSTITUTE OF EDUCATION

Applications are invited for the post of ASSISTANT LIBRARIAN in the above post. The successful candidate will be responsible for the day-to-day running of the library and will be expected to supervise the work of the library staff. The post is a full-time position and will be held on a permanent basis. The salary is £3,200 p.a. plus a 5 per cent. supplement. Applications should be sent to the Principal, University of London, London, WC2E 9BT. Closing date: 25th May, 1978.

## CITY OF MANCHESTER

## CULTURAL SERVICES

Applications are invited for the post of ASSISTANT LIBRARIAN in the above post. The successful candidate will be responsible for the day-to-day running of the library and will be expected to supervise the work of the library staff. The post is a full-time position and will be held on a permanent basis. The salary is £3,200 p.a. plus a 5 per cent. supplement. Applications should be sent to the Principal, City of Manchester, Manchester,